

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *newly cited*

Nakagawa et al. (7,197,529).

Analysis

Claims 1 and 3

Claims 1 and 3 include the feature of a control means for controlling writing of the ID information inputted by using the input means into the storage means and reading of the ID information from the storage means, and permitting the ID information stored in the storage means to be referred to and edited from another medical image photographing management terminal in response to a request from the another medical image photographing management terminal.

Thus, in the present invention, even in a case where ID information has been registered in a first photo studio but then the patient has to move to a second photo studio mid-session (e.g., equipment failure or different equipment needs to be used), the ID information from the first studio can be used in the second studio.

In other words, in the present invention, ID information is shared.

Nakagawa is directed to medical image photographing management also. This system is provided a plurality of controllers 102a...n (alleged terminals) which each include alleged input means 122 and temporary storage.

A server 104 connects the controllers 102 via network. The Examiner appears to rely on the controllers 102 as the control means for controlling writing and reading of the ID information inputted by using the input means.

However, the ID information is only transferred from one controller to another after the images have been processed by the radiation image reading apparatus 101. That is, the information is read by a second controller after the completion of the process of the radiation image reading apparatus 101, and there is no teaching or suggestion that another controller can essentially take over the photography mid-operation before the images are read. Moreover, there is not indication that the second controller can edit the ID information entered at the first controller. At most, it appears that the images and their associated ID information can be reviewed at the second controller after the apparatus 101 has processed the images.

Thus, Nakagawa fails to address a scenario in which an operator begins entering ID information at a first station, subsequently realizes an equipment failure or other such problem necessitating movement to a second station, and then retrieves the ID information from the first station for review and/or editing at the second station where the images can actually be taken.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants amend the independent claims 1 and 3 to clarify that the control means permits the ID information stored in the storage means to be referred to and edited from another medical image photographing management terminal in response to a request from the another medical image photographing terminal.

Applicants emphasize that the ID information is not edited by a second controller in Nakagawa. Claim 1 defines the ID information as “information about a patient as an object and information about the photographing”. In Nakagawa, there is no teaching or suggestion that this

type of ID information can be edited at a separate controller; at most, the images and ID information are reviewed only. In fact, Nakagawa is concerned with preventing the obtained image from being mistaken, whereas, the present invention is concerned with sharing the ID information.

Claim 2

Claim 2 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of its dependency therefrom.

Claim 4

There is no indication that the ID information managed by a first terminal is used in a second terminal where the photographing is being carried out by the second terminal. In other words, in Nakagawa, the second terminal only receives the ID information from the first terminal after the photographing has completed and processed by the image reader. There is no suggestion that the ID information can be inputted at a first terminal and such ID information can be used to take the images at a second terminal. As noted above, the transfer of information only occurs after the images have been processed and they are being sent to a controller for review.

Thus, claim 4 should be patentable.

Claims 5 and 6

Claims 5 and 6 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 4 by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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